A COPY OF VERSES

PRESENTED

To all his Loving Maſters and Miſtriſſes,

In the town of *Lambeth*,

By THOMAS OULDMAN, Bel-man.

The PROLOGUE.

Good people all, both Old and Young,
Attend the Merry Bel-mans come,
To wake you with his merry theams,
And rouze you up out of your Dreams;
I hope to pleaſe ſome with my Rhimes,
who pleaſes all muſt riſe betimes.

Howe'r my Maſters you all know
I trudge about in Froſt and Snow,
And many a bitter blaſt indure
To keep your Houſes ſafe and ſure;
Then Think upon the Bel-mans care,
And ſo I wiſh you well to fare.

On a Froſty Morning,

ALL you that hear my morning ſound,
When I abroad do walk my Round
To ſee your Houſes ſafe and well,
That you at quiet in them dwell;
Wherein you may both hug and kiſs,
I think there is no harm in this;
The mornings cold, creep cloſe together
For this is much like Winter Weather.

On a bluſtering Rainy Night.

HArk how it blows and Rains, 'tis dirty weather,
Therefore be rul'd by me, lye cloſe together:
Were I as you are now between the Sheets,
I would not riſe to walk about the ſtreets.

On Long Nights.

I Walk abroad a nights and ring my Bell
To give you notice Maſters all is well;
Though with the noiſe ſome people I offend,
Yet others ſtill my care they will commend
I hope you will excuſe me for the wrong,
You may have ſleepe enough, the nights are long.

On the Bel-man.

THe danger of the night doth much require
Your Bel-man's care for to prevent the fire;
In walking round to ſeek and ſearch about,
To ſee if that your Fire and Lights be out;
Your ſafeties all I do deſire to ſee,
Your faithful Servant I ſhall ever be.

On St. ANDREW.

SAint *Andrew*, an Apoſtle of our Lord,
Went o're to Nations to Preach his Sacred word,
For Chriſts dear ſake; no Torments he deny'd,
Still for the Croſs, and on the Croſs he dy'd.
God make us Chriſtians, as St. *Andrew* was,
Faithful to Chriſt, a lover of the Croſs.

For CHRISTMAS *Day.*

THis is the Glorious joyful day we keep,
Ariſe all drowſie ſouls now from your ſleep:
This is that happy and moſt bleſſed Morn
Our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt himſelf was born.
Let all good Angels in their Quires ſing
O welcome, welcome, to their Heavenly King.

On St. Stephens Day.

ST. *Stephen*, the firſt of Martyrs, who did ſee
The Heavens to op'e, and Jeſus Chriſt to be
Set on his Fathers Right Hand, there to make
Prayer and Intereceſſion for Man's ſake.
Awake O Man, awake, ariſe and Pray
Call on the Lord, while it is call'd to day:
For if the Bridegroom entring, ſhut the Gate.
Then may you call, but it will be too late

On St. JOHNS day.

ST. *John* was chief Apoſtle of the reſt,
Chriſt gave him leave to lean upon his breaſt;
He in a Revelation ſaw all that ſhould come
Upon the World untill the Day of Doom;
Which how nigh 'tis no mortal man can tell,
Then whilſt thou liv'ſt, endeavour to live well;
That when Chriſt comes theſe words be ſaid to thee
Come now ye bleſſed, come and live with me.

On INNOCENTS *Day.*

HEROD ſurpriſed, with grief was diſcontent
The Eaſtern Star, he knew not what it meant
But was ſo much aſtoniſht at the news
Of one new born, who ſhall be King o'th' Jews;
He then contriv'd this way to uſe his Skill
All new-born Babes he charg'd his men to kill,
Thinking thereby this matter to prevent
But by an Angel was the Virgin ſent
to *Ægypt*, were this bleſſed Babe was ſav'd,
Without Redemption on his breaſt engrav'd.

On NEW-YEARS *Day*

NOw let us all Repent, and all begin
This Year like Chriſtians, turning from our ſin:
For ought we know, before the Year be done
We may be dead and rotten every one;
Then is it not high time for to repent?
Since all our dayes in Vanity are ſpent,
Let us from Heaven beg help while we have time
For Death takes many in the very prime;
Ye Young and Old may both together go,
For none ſhall ſcape the Grave we all do know,

On the World.

THe World ſhall paſs away, and all therein
Shall be no more, as if they had not been
As if they never were; they all ſhall fade
They all are moving ſince they firſt were made:
Each word of God is good, and there's no clauſe
Of thretning Ruine to thoſe Righteous Laws
To him that keeps thoſe bleſt Commands, for he
Reward ſhall have unto Eternity.

Remembrance

THe time, O man! that thou haſt ſpent in ſin
It is to much, therefore at length begin
To call to mind that one day thou muſt dye,
But the time when, thou canſt it not deſcry
Thou knowſt not but Death may come to day,
And from thy body take thy ſoule away;
Therefore repent before thou breathe thy laſt
Leſt thou wilt wiſh thou hadſt when time is paſt.

To his Maſters

MY loving Maſters, you all ſhall plainly ſee
My love my care and my fidelyty,
Since providence did me your Servant chuſe
There's nothing for your ſafety I'le refuſe:
Giving you thanks, and ſo I ſhall do ever,
As long as life doth laſt, do my endeavour;
To keep you ſafe, that you may ſleep with joy
And no diſturbance may your ſtate annoy,

On Love.

OMan! be carefull of your Wife,
And love her as thou lov'ſt thy Life,
And then I dare with boldneſs ſay
There will be quietneſs every way:
For women are ſuch neceſſary things
Fit Companions for Emperours or Kings;
Though with my Bell this diſcourſe I raiſe,
Yet want a tongue to ſpeak a Womans praiſe.

On Death.

NOthing more certain is to mortal Men
Then Death, and yet it tis uncertain when;
For like a Thief, Death on all men doth ſteal
And with the Rich and Poor alike doth deale.
No Kings nor Princes from his Darts are free:
For his Arreſt let us prepared be;
Or elce 'twill be for us a dreadful day,
When he doth come to poſt us hence away.

Concluſion.

AND now my Worthy Maſters, if you pleaſe
To accept my Love in ſuch poor Lines as theſe,
I humbly thank you, and will ſtrive to be
Your faithful ſervant moſt continually:
And that your Health and happyneſs ſtill may
Continued be, do I your Bell-Man pray.

LONDON: Printed *Anno Dom.* 1686.